

CARE OF LIVESTOCK DURING OCTOBER

Contributed by the Animal Research Division.

BLACK-HEAD disease affects young turkeys and poultry and it can best be prevented by rearing these on land which has not been contaminated by adult poultry. If an outbreak occurs, kill all affected birds and move the remainder to clean ground. In the event of a bad outbreak the local Poultry Instructor should be consulted, because in some cases treatment may prove beneficial.

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In the east coast areas of the North Island where black disease of sheep occurs vaccination should be carried out during November or early December. This gives protection against the disease, which occurs mainly in summer and autumn. Vaccine should be ordered immediately.

Where cattle ticks are plentiful spraying or dipping should be carried out in November and December to prevent tick worry and to kill the adult female ticks before they lay their eggs.

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In districts where crutch strike causes trouble in ewes crutching or early shearing is advised. Close supervision is necessary to detect cases so that suitable treatment can be applied before the strike becomes too extensive.

When treating cases of fly strike shear the wool away so that a lin. margin of clean skin is left around the affected area. Remove the maggots by tapping with the shears and apply some reliable non-irritant dressing. Irritant fluids such as kerosene tend to cause restrike.



[Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.]



Supplementary feed is essential to ensure the proper feeding of cows in winter and in dry summers and to control facial eczema in autumn.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEED

As soon as more pasture is available than is necessary to meet the immediate needs of stock the balance should be shut up for silage or hay. On a well-managed dairy farm it should be possible to shut up at least 40 per cent. of the pasture. Crop growing for fattening of weaned lambs is standard practice in South Island districts and it could be adopted with advantage more widely in North Island districts which experience a dry summer. Crops such as thousand-headed kale and turnips, in addition to providing excellent fattening feed for lambs, are a splendid insurance against facial eczema. In Poverty Bay and Hawke's Bay they should be sown before the end of October so that they can be well established before dry weather sets in.

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Deaths after shearing may be due to infection of cuts or bruises with the blackleg germ. This disease can be prevented by vaccinating at least 3 weeks before shearing. If deaths have occurred in previous years, a Veterinarian or Inspector of Stock should be consulted with a view to arranging for vaccination this year.

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Greenleg occurs in poorly-ventilated brooders, especially if they are overcrowded and damp. At the first sign of trouble

GREENLEG IN BROODER CHICKENS

take necessary measures to ensure that ventilation is adequate and the litter is changed if it is all damp.